

## For U.S. adversaries, Election Day won't mean the end to efforts to influence Americans

By DAVID KLEPPER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Soon, the ballots will be cast, the polls will close and a campaign marked by assassination attempts, animosity and anxiety will come to an end. But for U.S. adversaries, the work to meddle with American democracy may be entering its most critical phase. Despite all the attention on efforts to spread disinformation in the months before the Nov. 5 election, the hours and days immediately after voting ends could offer foreign adversaries like Russia, Iran and China or domestic extremist groups the best chance to mess with America's decision. That's when Americans will go online to see the latest results or share their opinions as the votes are tabulated. And that's when a fuzzy photo or AI-generated video of supposed vote tampering could do its most damage,



Chester County, Pa., election workers process mail-in and absentee ballots, in West Chester, Pa., Nov. 4, 2020.

Associated Press

potentially transforming online outrage into real-world action before authorities have time to investigate the facts. It's a threat taken seriously

by intelligence analysts, elected officials and tech executives, who say that while there's already been a steady buildup of disinformation and

influence operations, the worst may be yet to come. "It's not like at the end of election night, particularly assuming how close this election will be, that this

will be over," said Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee.

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# For U.S. adversaries, Election Day won't mean the end to efforts to influence Americans

Continued from front

"One of my greatest concerns is the level of misinformation, disinformation that may come from our adversaries after the polls close could actually be as significant as anything that happens up to the closing of the polls."

Analysts are blunter, warning that a particularly effective piece of disinformation could be devastating to public confidence in the election if spread in the hours after the polls close, and if the group behind the campaign knows to target a particularly important swing state or voting bloc.

Possible scenarios include out-of-context footage of election workers repurposed to show supposed fraud, a deepfake video of a presidential candidate admitting to cheating or a robocall directed at non-English speakers warning them not to vote.

When a false or misleading claim circulates weeks before the election, there's time for local election officials, law enforcement or news organizations to gather the facts, correct any falsehoods and get the word out. But if someone



Director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Jen Easterly speaks to The Associated Press in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

spreads a deceptive video or photo designed to make a big chunk of the electorate distrust the results the day after the election, it can be hard or even impossible for the truth to catch up.

It happened four years ago, when a drumbeat of lies about the 2020 results spurred the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. Often, those arrested on accusations of trying to interfere with the transfer of power have cited

debunked election fraud narratives that circulated shortly after Election Day. An especially close election decided in a handful of swing states could heighten that risk even further, making it more likely that a rumor about suitcases of illegal ballots in Georgia, to cite an example from 2020, could have a big impact on perceptions.

President Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump in 2020 wasn't

especially close, and no irregularities big enough to affect the result were found and yet false claims about vote-rigging were still widely believed by many supporters of the Republican, who's running for president again.

The relatively long run-up to Inauguration Day on Jan. 20 gives those looking to sow doubt about the results ample time to do so, whether they are propaganda agencies in Moscow or extremist

groups in the U.S. like the Proud Boys.

Ryan LaSalle, CEO of the cybersecurity firm Nisos, said he won't feel relief until a new president is sworn in without any serious problems.

"The time to stay most focused is right now through the peaceful transfer of power," LaSalle said.

"That's when real-life activities could happen, and that's when they would have the greatest chance of having an impact on that peaceful transfer."

Another risk, according to officials and tech companies, is that Russia or another adversary would try to hack into a local or state election system not necessarily to change votes, but as a way of making voters question the security of the system.

"The most perilous time I think will come 48 hours before the election," Microsoft President Brad Smith told lawmakers on the Senate Intelligence Committee last month. The hearing focused on American tech companies' efforts to safeguard the election from foreign disinformation and cyberattacks. □

## Supreme Court won't hear appeal from Elon Musk's X platform over warrant in Trump case



Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk listens as Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event at the Butler Farm Show, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, in Butler, Pa.

Associated Press

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday it won't hear an appeal from the social media platform X over a search warrant prosecutors obtained in the election-interference case against former President Donald Trump.

The justices did not explain their reasoning and there were no noted dissents.

The company, known as Twitter before it was purchased by billionaire Elon Musk, says a nondisclosure order that blocked it from telling Trump about the warrant obtained by special counsel Jack Smith's team violated its First Amendment rights. The company also argues Trump should have had a chance to exert executive privilege.

If not reined in, the government could use

similar tactics to invade other privileged communications, their lawyers argued.

Two nonpartisan electronic privacy groups also weighed in, encouraging the high court to take the case on First Amendment grounds.

Prosecutors, though, say the company never showed Trump had used the account for official purposes so executive privilege wouldn't be an issue.

A lower court also found that telling Trump could have jeopardized the ongoing investigation.

Trump used his Twitter account in the weeks leading up to his supporters' attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to spread false statements about the election that prosecutors allege were designed to sow mistrust in the democratic process. □



## New analysis suggests national debt could increase under Harris, but it would surge under Trump

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — No one is likely to be happy with the projected higher deficits laid out in a new analysis of Kamala Harris' and Donald Trump's economic plans.

The analysis released Monday by the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget suggests a Harris presidency could increase the national debt over 10 years by \$3.5 trillion. That's even though the vice president's campaign insists her proposed investments in the middle class and housing would be fully offset by higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy. Her campaign policy guide states that Harris is "committed to fiscal responsibility making investments that will support our economy, while paying for them and reducing the deficit at the same time."

The same analysis says former President Trump's ideas could heap another \$7.5 trillion onto the debt and possibly as much as \$15.2 trillion. That's even though he suggests growth would be so strong under his



This combination photo shows Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at a rally in Flint, Mich., Oct. 4, 2024, left, and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Walker, Mich., Sept. 27, 2024.



Associated Press

watch that no one would need to worry about deficits. The 34-page report released by the fiscal watchdog group puts a spotlight on the issue of government borrowing that will confront the winner of November's election. Total federal debt held by the public now tops \$28 trillion and is expected to keep climbing as rev-

enues can't keep up with the growing costs of Social Security, Medicare and other programs. The analysis noted that the expense of servicing that debt in dollar terms has "eclipsed the cost of defending our nation or providing health care to elderly Americans." Drawing on the candidates' speeches, cam-

paign documents and social media posts, the analysis warns bluntly: "Debt would continue to grow faster than the economy under either candidates' plans and in most scenarios would grow faster and higher than under current law." Neither candidate has meaningfully stressed budget deficit

reduction in their pitch to voters. But multiple analyses show a clear difference of Harris being much more fiscally responsible than Trump.

Harvard University professor Jason Furman, who was the top economist in the Obama White House, estimated in an opinion article for The Wall Street Journal that Harris' plans could cut deficits by \$1.5 trillion or raise them by \$1.5 trillion. Meanwhile, his estimates show that Trump's plans would increase deficits by \$5 trillion, though that figure does not include his plans to charge no taxes on overtime pay and scrap the limit on deductions of state and local taxes.

There are other estimates by The Budget Lab at Yale and the Penn Wharton Budget Model that also show Harris would be better at keeping the deficit in check. The Harris campaign said it sharply disagreed with the analysis of Harris' policies by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, saying she would reduce the deficit if she became president. □

## Judge rules the FTC can proceed with antitrust lawsuit against Amazon, tosses out few state claims

By HAIJELUYA HADERO undefined

A federal judge said the Federal Trade Commission can proceed with its landmark antitrust lawsuit against Amazon. But, he also gave the company a small victory by tossing out a few claims made by states involved in the legal fight.

The order, issued last week by Judge John H. Chun and unsealed on Monday, is a major defeat for Amazon, which has tried for months to get the case tossed out in court. A trial in the case is slated to be held in October 2026.

"We are pleased with the court's decision and look

forward to moving this case forward," FTC spokesperson Doug Farrar said in a prepared statement. "The ways Amazon illegally maintains its monopolies and the harm they cause including suppressed competition and higher prices for shoppers and sellers will be on full display at trial."

The FTC and the attorneys general of 18 states, plus Puerto Rico, have alleged in court the e-commerce behemoth is abusing its position in the marketplace to inflate prices on and off its platform, overcharge sellers and stifle competition that pops up on the market.

The lawsuit, which was filed

in September 2023, is the result of a yearslong investigation into the company's business and is one of the most significant legal challenges brought against Amazon in its nearly 30-year history.

U.S. regulators and state attorneys general are accusing the online retailer of violating federal and state antitrust and consumer protection laws.

In the order, Judge Chun, of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, allowed the federal challenges and many of the state claims to proceed. But he dismissed some claims made by New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Okla-

homa and Maryland under state antitrust or consumer protection laws. Amazon, for its part, expressed confidence that it could prove its argument in

court as the case proceeds. "The ruling at this early stage requires the court to assume all facts alleged in the complaint are true. □



The Amazon logo is seen, June 15, 2023, at the Viva tech show in Paris.

Associated Press



## Another top aide to New York City mayor resigns amid federal probe

By **JAKE OFFENHARIZ** and **KAREN MATTHEWS**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Embattled New York City Mayor Eric Adams said Monday that he's accepted the resignation of his deputy mayor for public safety, Philip Banks, the latest senior official to leave as the mayor fends off an indictment and calls to step down.

Adams said on TV station NY1 that Banks had told him Sunday that "he wants to transition to some other things" and "doesn't want this to be a constant burden on the work that we're doing in the city." The mayor added, "I wish my good friend well."

The resignation, first reported in the New York Post, comes one month after federal agents seized devices from top city officials including Banks and his brother, schools chancellor David Banks, who also announced his resignation. In total, five top administration officials have left the administration in the last month.

Federal prosecutors have said they are pursuing "several related investigations" in addition to the



**New York City Police Dept. Chief of Department Philip Banks attends a news conference, in New York, Jan. 30, 2014.**

case against the mayor, who was indicted late last month on charges of accepting illegal campaign contributions and bribes from foreign nationals. He has pleaded not guilty.

In a separate probe, federal prosecutors are scrutinizing whether a consulting firm run by a third Banks brother, Terence, broke the law by leveraging his family connections to help private

companies secure city contracts, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose information about the investigations.

All three Banks brothers have denied wrongdoing. An attorney for Philip Banks, Benjamin Brafman, said Monday that federal pros-

ecutors had assured him his client was not a target of the investigation. He said prosecutors were initially scrutinizing "insignificant" Zelle payments between the brothers that were actually related to poker games.

The Justice Department's definition of a target is notoriously fluid. Prior to Adams' indictment, the city's top legal counsel, who has

also since resigned, told reporters that the mayor did not appear to be a target of the investigation.

Adams has rebuffed calls to resign, brushing off concern about his ability to govern as he mounts his legal defense and contends with an exodus of top aides. "I am confident when the true story gets out and not a one-sided version, New Yorkers are going to see that we can stay focused and get the job done," he said Monday.

But he is facing mounting pressure to clean house in his administration, including from Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat who has the power to remove him from office.

Adams appointed Philip Banks in 2022 as deputy for public safety, a role not seen in New York since the 1990s that gave him wide influence over the nation's largest police and fire departments.

Banks had previously served as the NYPD's highest-ranking uniformed member, but resigned abruptly in 2014 after becoming ensnared in another corruption scandal that shook City Hall. □

## Mega Millions tickets will climb to \$5, but officials promise bigger prizes and better odds

By **SCOTT McFEIRIDGE**

**Associated Press**

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)** —

The cost of buying a Mega Millions jackpot dream will soon more than double,

but lottery officials said they're confident players won't mind paying more after changes that will lead to larger prizes and more frequent winners.

Lottery officials announced Monday that it will cost \$5 to play Mega Millions, beginning in April, up from the current \$2 per ticket. The price increase will be one of many changes to Mega Millions that officials said will result in improved jackpot odds, more frequent giant prizes and even larger payouts. "Spending 5 bucks to become a millionaire or billionaire, that's pretty good," said Joshua Johnston, director of the Washington Lottery and lead

director of the group that oversees Mega Millions. Mega Millions and its lottery counterpart Powerball are sold in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Powerball also is sold in Puerto Rico. Powerball officials said they have no plans to change that game's odds or the \$2 price for most tickets. Mega Millions will introduce changes at a time when fewer people are buying tickets and jackpots need to reach ever-higher figures before sporadic players notice and opt to buy a ticket or two. Whereas a \$500 million jackpot once prompted lines out convenience store doors,

top prizes of \$1 billion now often draw more of a ho-hum response.

Those much-hyped jackpot numbers also could take a hit as interest rates fall. That's because on billboards or other advertisements, state lotteries emphasize the annuity payout for jackpots, distributed over decades from an investment fund. As interest rates have been high, the annuity jackpots have more than doubled the cash prizes that winners nearly always choose.

With an expectation that interest rates will drop, those annuity jackpot figures will decline, so the advertised jackpot won't seem quite so massive. □



**A Mega Millions logo is displayed on a vending machine at the Hoosier Lottery booth at the Indiana State Fair, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, in Indianapolis.**

**Associated Press**



## Demonstrations around the world commemorate the anniversary of Hamas attack on Israel

By JUSTIN SPIKE

Associated Press

**BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)** — Commemorations and protests unfolded across the world on Monday to mark the anniversary of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, an assault that sparked a war that has devastated the Hamas-ruled Gaza strip, fueled hostilities and bloodshed in other Middle East lands and ignited protests and divisions in farflung countries. Hamas militants' surprise cross-border attack last year killed about 1,200 people. Another 250 were taken hostage; around 100 remain in captivity, with many of them feared dead. The attack, on a major Jewish holiday, shattered Israelis' sense of security and left the world facing the prospect of a major conflict in the Middle East. Israel responded by waging a war against the Hamas militants in Gaza, where the fighting has killed over 41,000 people and displaced around 1.9 million. The conflict has spread in the region, where Israel now also is fighting Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, facing escalating threats from Yemen's Houthi reb-



Survivor Alon Gat, Rabi Yehuda Teichtal and Berlin mayor Kai Wegner, centre from left, hold a candle-lighting ceremony marking the first anniversary of the Hamas spearheaded attacks on Israel, at the synagogue of the Chabad community in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Oct. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

els and contending with a mounting conflict with Iran, which backs Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis. The Hamas-Israel war also has spurred demonstrations and stirred tensions in many U.S. locales, including college campuses and major cities. In New York, hundreds of protesters chanted "free, free Palestine" and other slogans and

spread a large Palestinian flag on a street near the New York Stock Exchange early Monday afternoon, while a smaller group of counterprotesters held an Israeli flag. The pro-Palestinian protesters began marching through lower Manhattan for what was expected to be an hours-long procession.

Meanwhile, a large remembrance ceremony was planned later Monday in Central Park for those killed in the Hamas attack a year ago. New York's mayor and governor were among those expected to attend. The nations of Europe, home to many Jewish and Muslim communities, have sought to tamp down both

antisemitic and anti-Muslim sentiment.

The German chancellery in Berlin was adorned Monday with a yellow ribbon commemorating the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas, around 100 of whom remain in captivity, with many of them feared dead. The names of the people killed and kidnapped in the attack on Israel were read out in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said to Germany's "dear friends in Israel" that "we feel with you ... we stand beside you."

Speaking to a conference in Hamburg, Scholz also pointed to the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and said "the daily experience of violence and hunger is not a basis on which good things can grow."

In Italy, Premier Giorgia Meloni, who has voiced strong support for Israel, visited the main synagogue in Rome and reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself, while insisting that the country respect international law and lamenting the devastation unleashed by Israeli forces in Gaza. □

## Russian court sentences a 72-year-old American to nearly 7 years in prison for fighting in Ukraine

**MOSCOW (AP)** — A Russian court on Monday sentenced a 72-year-old American in a closed trial to nearly seven years in prison for allegedly fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine.

Prosecutors said Stephen Hubbard signed a contract with the Ukrainian military after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022 and he fought alongside them until being captured two months later. He was sentenced to six years and 10 months in a general-security prison. Prosecutors had called for a sentence of seven years in a maximum-security prison. Hubbard, from the state of Michigan, is the first American known to have been convicted on charges of fighting as a mercenary in the Ukrainian conflict.

The charges carried a potential sentence of 15 years, but prosecutors asked that his age be taken into account along with his admission of guilt, Russian news reports said. Arrests of Americans have become

increasingly common in Russia in recent years. Concern has risen that Russia could be targeting U.S. nationals for a rest to use later as bargaining chips in talks to bring back Russians convicted of crimes in the U.S. and Europe.

Also on Monday, a court in the city of Voronezh sentenced American Robert Gilman to seven years and 1 month for allegedly assaulting law enforcement officers while serving a sentence for another assault.

According to Russian news reports, Gilman was arrested in 2022 for causing a disturbance while intoxicated on a passenger train and then assaulted a police officer while in custody. He is serving a 3 1/2-year sentence on that charge.

Last year, he assaulted a prison inspector during a cell check, then hit an official of the Investigative Committee, resulting in the new sentence, state news agency RIA-Novosti said. □



In this photo released by the Moscow City Court Press Service, Stephen Hubbard, a U.S. citizen accused of fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine against Russia sits in a glass cage during a court session in the Moscow City court in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Oct. 7, 2024.

Associated Press



## Chagos islanders displaced for a U.S. military base protest a deal on their future made without them

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Islanders who were forced to leave their remote Indian Ocean home to make way for a U.S. military base half a century ago protested outside the U.K. Parliament on Monday against a deal they say has decided their homeland's fate without them.

The British government announced last week that it is handing the Chagos Islands to Mauritius under an agreement that will see the American naval and bomber base stay on one of the islands, Diego Garcia.

Opponents accuse the government of surrendering sovereignty over a British territory. And the deal has left displaced residents uncertain whether they can go home.

"They announced a deal without even consulting us, which is at the center of all this tragedy," said Frankie Bontemps, who called the U.K.-Mauritius agreement "history repeating itself."

"They have a deal which is suitable for them, best for them, of course. And what about the people? What about the people that they ignored like 65 years ago?" The Chagos Islands, a tropi-

cal archipelago just south of the equator off the tip of India, have been under British control since 1814. They have been known as the British Indian Ocean Territory since 1965 when they were split off from Mauritius, a then-U.K. colony that gained independence three years later.

Britain evicted as many as 2,000 people from the islands in the 1960s and 1970s so the U.S. military could build the Diego Garcia base, which has supported U.S. military operations from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2008, the U.S. acknowledged it also had been used for clandestine rendition flights of terror suspects.

Many of the islanders resettled in Britain and fought unsuccessfully in U.K. courts to return home. Their cause has garnered international support, notably among African nations and within the United Nations. In a non-binding 2019 opinion, the International Court of Justice ruled that the U.K. had unlawfully carved up Mauritius when it agreed to end colonial rule in the late 1960s.

The U.N. General Assembly followed that opinion with a resolution demanding that Britain end its "colonial



Chagossians Whitney Tranquille, center, attends a protest to respond the U.K. announcement to agree to hand sovereignty of the long-contested Chagos Islands to Mauritius and against their "Exclusion" from Chagos negotiations, outside the House of Parliament, in London, Monday, Oct. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

administration" of the Chagos Islands and return them to Mauritius.

Britain's newly elected Labour government says that without the deal the status of the military base would be under threat from legal challenges.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said the new government "inherited unfinished business" from the previous Conservative administration, which began

negotiations with Mauritius in 2022.

"The status quo was not sustainable," Lammy told lawmakers in the House of Commons. "A binding judgement against the U.K. seemed inevitable."

Under the agreement, the U.K. will retain sovereignty of Diego Garcia for an initial period of 99 years, paying Mauritius an undisclosed rent.

U.S. President Joe Biden

welcomed the deal, saying it "secures the effective operation of the joint facility on Diego Garcia into the next century."

But Britain's Conservative opposition said the decision to hand over a piece of U.K. territory sets a worrying precedent for other far-flung possessions including Gibraltar, which is claimed by Spain, and the Falkland Islands, claimed by Argentina. □

## Ex-Philippine President Duterte to run as mayor despite his drug killings legacy



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte listens to a question from reporters at Manila's International Airport, Philippines on, Nov. 9, 2016.

Associated Press

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — The Philippines's former President Rodrigo Duterte registered Monday to run for mayor of his southern home city despite his notorious legacy over his brutal anti-drugs crackdown that the International Criminal Court is investigating as a possible crime against humanity.

Duterte, 79, filed his papers before the Election Commission in Davao city, where he had served as mayor for about two decades before winning the presidency in 2016. His son incumbent Davao city Mayor Sebastian Duterte would run as his vice-mayor in next year's mid-term elections, officials said.

More than 6,000 people, mostly poor drug suspects, were killed under a massive police-enforced crackdown against illegal drugs that Duterte oversaw when he was president, according to government pronouncements. But human rights groups say the death toll is considerably higher and should include many unsolved killings by motorcycle-riding gunmen, who may have been deployed by police.

Duterte has denied condoning extrajudicial killings of drug suspects, although he has openly threatened suspects with death and has ordered police to shoot suspects who dangerously resist arrest.

Despite his administration's massive crackdown against illegal drugs, Duterte acknowledged that drugs remained a major problem. During his presidential campaign, he vowed to eradicate the drug problem in three to six months but said after winning the presidency that he underestimated the enormity of the problem. □



## Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner  
The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick “to-go” breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and



empanadas early in the morning.

### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), cami stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

### Dinner Time

Dinnertime can vary significantly from household to

household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening “meal” can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

### (Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other



items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, dedi-



tos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means “bag”. Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

**Source:** Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

## How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We’ve talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there’s a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

### How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba’s beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have start-



ed to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate

around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a coral reef

is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it’s shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

### Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.

**Source:** archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).





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## The Story of the Bao: A Journey Through Time Now Available at Poke Ono, Aruba

From ancient China to the bustling streets of major cities worldwide, the bao has traveled far. Now, residents and visitors in Aruba can savor this iconic Asian steamed bun at Poke Ono, a restaurant located in Azure or Marketplace. Specializing in Asian and Hawaiian cuisine, Poke Ono has introduced bao to its menu, showcasing its versatility and rich cultural heritage.

### Origins and Evolution of the Bao

The bao, also known as baozi, traces its roots back to the Song Dynasty in China, where it was first described as a steamed, filled bun. According to legend, the bao was invented by the military strategist Zhuge Liang to feed his soldiers. Originally enjoyed during breakfast or festive occasions like Chinese New Year, its simplicity and adaptability have allowed the bao to evolve, becoming a sym-



bol of modern street food in many countries around the world.

In Asia, bao comes in various forms and names, such as Gua Bao in Taiwan, which refers to a specific type of bao filled with a variety of ingredients. Over time, the bao has crossed borders, evolving with international influences and gaining popularity in global cuisine, thanks in part to chefs like David Chang, who introduced it to Western markets through innovative versions that blend traditional and modern flavors.

### The Bao at Poke Ono

At Poke Ono, the bao has earned a special place on the menu, standing out for its soft and fluffy texture, achieved by steaming the dough. The restaurant, known for its Asian and Hawaiian fusion, has crafted a selection of bajs that offer a burst of flavors, combining fresh, creative ingredients that reflect both tradition and culinary innovation. Some of the standout bajs on the menu include:

- "Herbivore": Korean fried cauliflower, served with Asian coleslaw, spicy vegi-naise, lettuce, and avocado.

- Hoisin Pork Bao: Hoisin glazed pork with cucumber, peanut dressing, chic hamon, and lettuce.

- Galbi Bao: Korean BBQ beef with kimchi, shiitake mushrooms, lettuce, spicy Kewpie mayonnaise, and crispy onions.

- Sweet and Sour Shrimp Bao: Fried shrimp, served with sweet and sour sauce, bell peppers, pineapple, lettuce, and spicy Kewpie mayonnaise.

- "KFC" Bao: Korean fried chicken with Asian coleslaw, lettuce, and garlic Kewpie mayonnaise.

- Asian BBQ Pork Shao Pao: Steamed bun stuffed with a sweet Asian BBQ pork filling.

- Teriyaki Burger Bao: Grilled 8 oz beef patty topped with cheddar cheese, teriyaki sauce, lettuce, spicy Kewpie mayonnaise in a baked Bao, served with Asian French fries.

### Global and Local Popularity

The popularity of the bao continues to rise. From food festivals in major cities to fine dining restaurants the bao has captured the imagination of chefs and diners alike. Poke Ono has embraced this global trend, offering visitors to Aruba a unique culinary experience that combines traditional Asian flavors with modern, fresh twists.

### About Poke Ono

Located in Aruba, Poke Ono is a restaurant specializing in Asian and Hawaiian cuisine. With a fresh and inviting atmosphere the restaurant offers a variety of dishes that emphasize creativity, freshness, and a deep respect for culinary traditions. From poke bowls, sishis to innovative bajs, Poke Ono invites diners to embark on a gastronomic journey that celebrates the best of Asian and Hawaiian fusion cuisine.

## Dining in? Try making a local favorite

### How to make "func hi hasa"

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "func hi hasa" (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is func hi hasa? Func hi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water

and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of func hi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour\*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

### Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add

the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time.



Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your func hi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it

with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNC HI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried func hi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.



The three levels of honor are as follows:  
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador

(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

**The honorees were:**

Goodwill Ambassadors  
Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Susan McCaffrey from North Myrtle Beach South Carolina, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott's Aruba Surf Club Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- Aruba is very safe.
- "Entertainment opportunities"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

## Playa Linda promotes "Pack for a Purpose" ideals

*Big impact can be made during the holiday season*

Playa Linda Beach Resort, whose commitment to the larger Aruban community has resulted in the support of various, invaluable island non-profits over the years, continues to partner with and promote the international "Pack for a Purpose" (PfaP) cause. Acts of kindness through small individual donations can add up and have a tremendous impact, simply by using extra luggage space to bring in needed supplies that benefit the most vulnerable members of the community in a vacation destination. As we approach the holiday season, Playa Linda is making another appeal to Aruba's many devoted visitors, encouraging them to bring joy to others through thoughtful donations.

In Aruba, the partnership

between Playa Linda and Pack for a Purpose gets needed supplies to the Animal Relief Foundation (ARF), Casa Cuna (Children's Home), the Foundation for Our Community (FPNC) and others. At this time of year, FPNC does particularly important work, providing basic needs and helping to feed struggling families. As well as running the island's only food pantry, FPNC also holds a Christmas event for those who otherwise would be unable to enjoy a holiday gathering. Donations of children's toys are also being accepted at this time of year.

Visitors to Aruba are encouraged to participate by visiting the Pack for a Purpose website: <https://www.packforapurpose.org/>



destinations/caribbean/aruba/playa-linda-beach-resort/ where they can choose an item or items from the different foundations' specific needs list. Once in Aruba, those items can be dropped off at the front desk at the Playa Linda Beach Resort, which will ensure it gets to the designated recipient.

"We listened to our members and guests, and chose foundations which we thought could make the biggest difference," explains Playa Linda Director of Operations Sulaika Kelly.



"For the five years we have partnered with PfaP, we have experienced remarkable kindness and generosity from guests, and we hope to keep that momentum going. By working together, we have been able to express gratitude and give back to the Aruban community in meaningful ways."

Pack for a Purpose carries the message of "make your



travels meaningful" by pairing travelers with the needs of community projects around the world. Since 2010, it has helped hundreds of projects in places in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, by focusing in on five general areas: education, health, child welfare, animal welfare, and socioeconomic development.



## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were



called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank

of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition

or symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushinbana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Tupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun diceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile dicinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Domasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).



of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism

#### 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue col-

#### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangre di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

#### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana),

### Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

**Source:** Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba





## Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

### Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you are visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Sero Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

### About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

### Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

#### Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough

weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

#### Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

### How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charles Brouns Jr. at his famous

Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

### Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died

on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seamen who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Sero Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

### The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops. □





CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Florida need  
city, for short  
5 Drive  
10 Not fitting  
12 Bangor's state  
13 Ocean measure  
14 Fourth-down plays  
15 Corn unit  
16 Dwells  
18 Play-ground sights  
20 Vein yield  
21 Feedbag fill  
23 Petite  
24 Come together  
26 Look after  
28 A thou thou  
29 Go to sea  
31 Early hour  
32 Lion groups  
36 Separates  
39 French friend  
40 Stay away from  
41 Hungry, probably  
43 Crew members

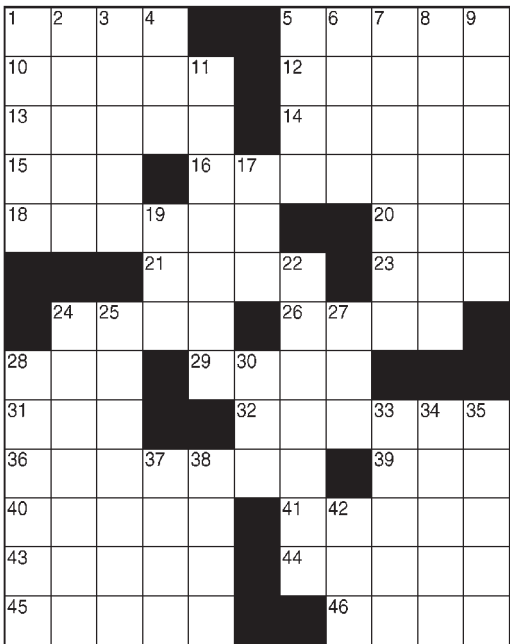
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DOWN

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9 Tenant  
11 Menaces  
17 Superlative suffix  
19 Female rabbit  
22 Agitates  
24 SUV's cousin  
25 Raise  
27 Yale rooter  
28 Router connections  
30 Zoo dweller  
33 Willem of "Platoon"  
34 Correct, as text  
35 Flanks  
37 Creative germ  
38 Cubicle fixture  
42 Devils' grp.

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LAID DECAF  
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RAJ AIM ILL  
DRESSSES OIL  
SECTS INNS  
TRYING  
ARIA VALETS  
COOP ATONES  
TENS NOODLE

Yesterday's answer



3-14

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

FQRUQIQ UH RUOQ! KRTKBE  
LDJKH FQUHZE TURR  
YCNZCQEE SN ZCQKS,  
FCNKWQC, KHW ODRRQC  
RUOQ. — T.Q.F. WD FNUE  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MISTRUST ALL  
ENTERPRISES THAT REQUIRE NEW CLOTHES.  
— F.M. FORSTER

Cruise ship Schedule: October 01 - 13 2024

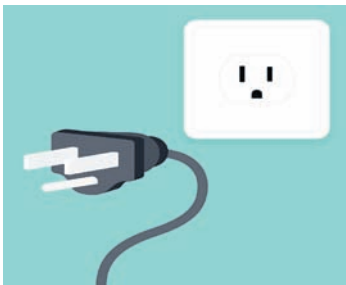
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	01	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
THU	03	WORLD EXPLORER	08.00	23.59	C	1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
TUE	08	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# The world's rivers faced the driest year in three decades in 2023, the UN weather agency says

By JAMEY KEATEN  
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. weather agency is reporting that 2023 was the driest year in more than three decades for the world's rivers, as the record-hot year underpinned a drying up of water flows and contributed to prolonged droughts in some places. The World Meteorological Organization also says glaciers that feed rivers in many countries suffered the largest loss of mass in the last five decades, warning that ice melt can threaten long-term water security for millions of people globally. "Water is the canary in the coalmine of climate change. We receive distress signals in the form of increasingly extreme rainfall, floods and droughts which wreak a heavy toll on lives, ecosystems and economies," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo, releasing the report on Monday. She said rising temperatures had in part led the hydrological cycle to become "more erratic and unpredictable" in ways that can produce "either too much or too little water" through both droughts and floods. □



**Barges float in the Mississippi River as a portion of the riverbed is exposed, on Sept. 15, 2023, in St. Louis.**

Associated Press

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
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Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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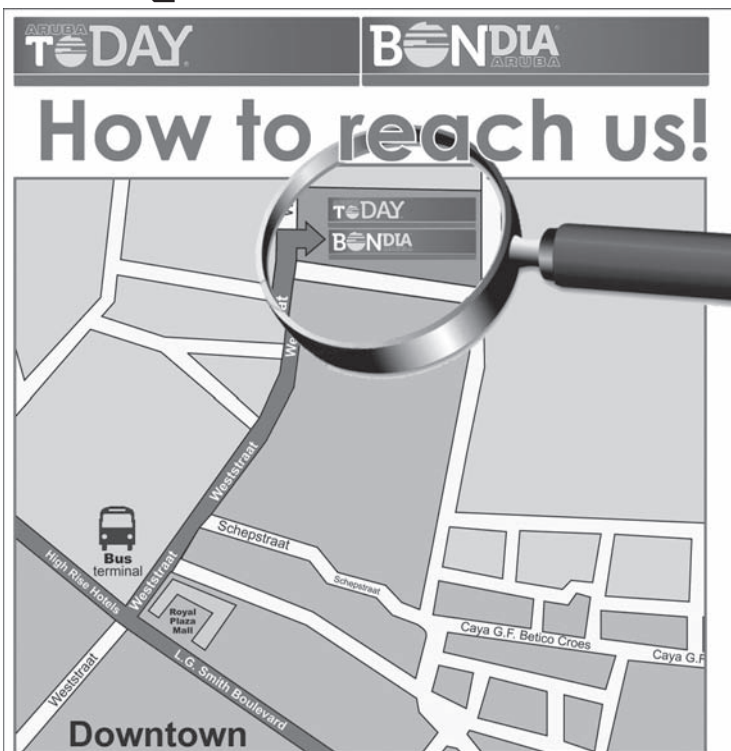
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## Tilda Swinton explores assisted suicide in Pedro Almodóvar's 'The Room Next Door'

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — Although "The Room Next Door" is Pedro Almodóvar's first English-language feature, Tilda Swinton notes that he's never written in a language that anyone else truly speaks. "He writes in Pedro language, and here he is making another film in another version of Pedro language, which just happens to sound a little bit like English," Swinton said.

Set in New York, Swinton stars as Martha, a terminally ill woman who chooses to end her life on her own terms. After reconnecting with her friend Ingrid, played by Julianne Moore, Martha persuades her to stay and keep her company before she goes through with her decision.

Beyond the film's narrative, Swinton said she believes individuals should have a say in their own living and dying. She acknowledges that she has personally witnessed a friend's compassionate departure.

"In my own life I had the great good fortune to be asked by someone in Martha's position to be his Ingrid (Julianne Moore)," Swinton said.

She said that experience



Tilda Swinton attends the premiere of "The Room Next Door" at TIFF Lightbox during the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, in Toronto.

Associated Press

shaped her attitude about life and death: "Not only my capacity to be witness to other people in that situation, but my own living and my own dying."

Swinton spoke to The Associated Press about "The Room Next Door," Almodóvar and the idea of letting people die on their own terms. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** Tackling that role, what was the challenge to get into the character?

**SWINTON:** I felt really blessed by the opportunity. So many of us have been in the situation Julianne Moore's character finds herself in, being asked to be the witness of someone who is dying. Whether that wanting to orchestrate their own dismount or not, to be in that position to be a witness is something that I've been privileged to experience many times in my life since I was quite young.

**AP:** Many people experience watching terminally

ill family members, can this film help them?

**SWINTON:** It's a really beautiful poem to a possibility of an attitude. I think (my character) Martha's attitude to her own living is really inspiring. I would like to think that this is a really generous proposal and that it might inspire people to just know that it's possible to face their own death with dignity, which is really what we're talking about.

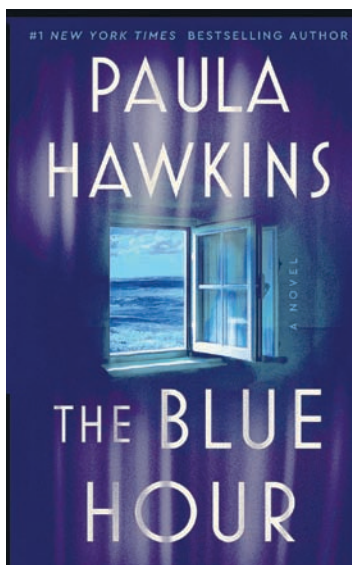
It really is a fool's errand to think we can avoid think-

ing about death because it's not just unlucky people who get ill or who die. It's an inevitability. And so we might as well, you know, embrace it. And by the way, the more we embrace it, I would suggest the more we will enjoy our living.

**AP:** Your character goes to great extents to alleviate the criminality. Do you think that also shows that that perhaps that there is a place in a society for assisted suicide?

**SWINTON:** There are many countries in the world where it is not criminal to assist somebody's active will to orchestrate their own dying. And in the United States, there are 10 states where it is not criminal, where it's possible for two doctors to assist in the active will of a patient to take charge of their own dying. And it's there are just other places where and New York State, which is where our film is set, is not one of those 10 states. And there are all sorts of people, very wise and very compassionate people, very educated and very enlightened people, in my view, who are actively campaigning to broaden this acceptance. □

## Book Review: Paula Hawkins returns with psychological thriller 'The Blue Hour'



This cover image released by Mariner shows "The Blue Hour" by Paula Hawkins.

Associated Press

By ROB MERRILL

Associated Press

Since bursting on the scene in 2015 with "The Girl on a Train," Paula Hawkins has established herself as a reliable writer of psychological thrillers set in the U.K. "The Blue Hour" doesn't plow any new ground on that front, but it's a tight story with interesting characters that keeps you engaged until the end.

Set mostly on an isolated Scottish island named Eris, where a famous painter and ceramicist named Vanessa Chapman once lived and worked, the story begins with a discovery. A bone in one of Chapman's sculptures, now owned by an estate, may be human. That revelation links together the three main characters: Chapman's long-time companion Grace Winters, a Chapman scholar who works for Fairbum Estate named James Becker, and Julian, Chapman's ex-husband who went missing 20 years ago.

Told in the present, in flashbacks from two decades ago, and via excerpts from Chapman's diary, the plot moves along steadily. It's not really a keep-the-reader-guessing

type of thriller, but more of a slow build that culminates in a shocking ending.

Hawkins weaves artistic themes and the creative process through the novel. Chapman's diary entries are filled with references to the landscape that inspires her: the "terrible chaos" of waves, the sky "miraculous azure or threatening gunmetal." The title refers to a time at dusk before the stars come out when the color leaches from the day but it's not yet full dark. Hawkins' prose often mirrors Chapman's artistic eye. Here's Becker's first glimpse of Grace: "Her face is soft, cheeks relaxing gently into jowls, and her colors are muddled: from her bowl of hair to her slightly protuberant eyes... she is painted in varying shades of brown."

The novel's setting is a character unto itself. Eris is reachable from the mainland only when the tide is out, in two six-hour chunks each day, and so it's a fine place to bury secrets physical and psychological. Learning those secrets is the fun of the novel, and there are few authors writing today who drip them out, page by excruciating page, like Hawkins. □



## New manager Terry Francona says Cincinnati Reds job 'just felt right'

By **MITCH STACY**  
AP Sports Writer

Give Hall of Fame broadcaster Marty Brennaman an assist in putting Cincinnati Reds officials together with Terry Francona, the man who would become the team's new manager. After manager David Bell was fired late in the season, the 82-year-old Brennaman called Francona to urge his longtime friend to at least take a look at the Reds job. Francona, 65, had stepped down as manager of the Cleveland Guardians after the 2023 season, citing health reasons among others.

"He and I have a great friendship, and I've always respected the fact that he's truly one of the best managers I've ever been around," said Brennaman, who was the Reds play-by-play man from 1974 to 2019.

"I just felt like it was important for me as a friend to call him and say, you want to come back?"

Francona told him he'd be open to listening to what the Reds had to say. So team officials visited him at home in Arizona, and it didn't take long to lure the baseball lifer back to the ballpark.

"Marty, can you believe



Cleveland Guardians manager Terry Francona applauds during a tribute video before the team's baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, in Cleveland. Associated Press

I'm standing here?" a smiling Francona asked the famed broadcaster when he stepped to the podium Monday to be officially introduced as the Reds' new field boss.

Francona said he's rested, healthy and has the stamina to take on the grind of a long baseball season again.

"When the Reds reached out, I started looking at the team a little more closely, and they came out to visit and it just felt right," Fran-

cona said.

"And it felt right from pretty close to the beginning of the meeting."

Francona, who was an outfielder for the Reds under manager Pete Rose in 1987, replaces Bell, who was fired in the final days of his sixth season after compiling a 409-456 record. Francona has agreed to a three-year contract through the 2027 season with a club option for 2028.

Known as Tito, Francona comes to Cincinnati as one

of baseball's most beloved managers. He has a 1,950-1,672 record in 23 years as a big-league manager with Philadelphia (1997-2000), the Red Sox (2004-2011) and the Guardians (2013-2023). He took Cleveland to the playoffs seven times in his 11 seasons and won 921 games.

He was slowed by serious medical issues in his final years in Cleveland but stayed clear of calling his departure a retirement.

"I honestly didn't see myself

managing again," Francona said.

"I had a really good year away from the game. I needed to step away. I didn't step away because I didn't love the game. I stepped away because I didn't think I was doing the job up to the caliber I thought was necessary. A lot of it was health, and it was getting in the way."

Francona was feeling good again when he was visited by Reds president of baseball operations Nick Krall and general manager Brad Meador. By the time the meeting was over, Francona was ready to put on his uniform right then and there.

"I firmly believe players enjoy being coached as long as there's a solid reason and that you're also organized, and that we will be," Francona said.

"My promise to the organization and to the fans is that I'll spend all my energy ensuring that (players) spend all their energy trying to play the game right and with respect," he said.

"One of my biggest goals is that our players feel like they're cared for more than ever before but at the same time asking more of them on the field than has ever been done before." □

## Liberty aren't celebrating beating Aces with WNBA Finals on the horizon

By **MARK ANDERSON**  
AP Sports Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — The celebration was relatively muted given how long the Liberty had waited to exact revenge on the Aces for beating New York on its home court in last year's WNBA Finals.

Except Sunday's 76-62 victory wasn't exactly the moment the Liberty have dreamed about.

They are three victories from making that vision a reality and will have home-court advantage in the best-of-five series against the Connecticut Sun or Minnesota Lynx. The finals series begins Thursday.

"We went to the finals last year," Breanna Stewart said. "We didn't do nothing."

The Liberty have spent nearly a year using that finals loss to a short-handed Las Vegas team playing with a sharp focus in estab-

lishing the league's best record. Coming up two wins short of a championship won't be good enough this year.

So as satisfying as it was to beat the Aces, it's not the title.

The Liberty not only have last year's close call hanging in the shadows, but there also is the organization's oh-so-close history. New York went to the finals in three of the league's first four years and lost each time to the Houston Comets. Then the Liberty lost two years later to the Los Angeles Sparks.

Maybe this is the year they get it done.

One major advantage in wrapping up the series against Las Vegas in four games was it gives New York extra time to rest while the Sun and Lynx play a winner-takes-all Game 5 on Tuesday. Then the winner will have to travel from Minneapolis.



New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) drives past Las Vegas Aces guard Chelsea Gray (12) during the second half of a WNBA Semifinal basketball game, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press



# NCAA's \$2.78 billion settlement with colleges to allow athlete payments gets preliminary approval

By EDDIE PELLIS  
AP National Writer

A judge granted preliminary approval Monday to the \$2.78 billion legal settlement that would transform college sports by allowing schools to pay players. U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken released an order setting a timeline for a deal that would put millions of dollars into the pockets of college athletes, who can begin applying for payment on Oct. 18. A final hearing is set for April 7, 2025, the day that one of college sports' biggest moneymakers, March Madness, comes to a close with college basketball's national title game. If finalized, the deal would allow the biggest schools to establish a pool of about \$21.5 million in the first year to distribute money to athletes through a revenue-sharing plan. Athletes would still be able to cut name, image and likeness deals with outside groups. Former college athletes from as far back as 2016 would be able to apply for their share of \$2.576 billion set aside to help them recoup money they could've made from NIL deals, which



Georgia quarterback Carson Beck (15) throws from the pocket in the first half of an NCAA college football game against Auburn Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, in Athens, Ga.

Associated Press

were not allowed until 2021. "We are pleased that we are one step closer to a revolutionary change in college athletics that will allow billions in revenue sharing," said plaintiff attorney Steve Berman. The judge's approval comes 11 days after attorneys tweaked wording in the original settlement agreement to address Wilken's concerns. The

main change involved getting rid of the word "boosters" and replacing it with a better-defined description of whose potential NIL deals would be subject to oversight by a neutral arbitrator once the deal goes through. That did not, however, strike to the heart of the settlement, which sets up a revenue-sharing arrangement between schools and

athletes who, for decades, played for scholarships, a few expenses and little else, while coaches and athletic departments brought in millions. The \$21.5 million figure comes from the 22% of average revenue that generate through media rights, tickets and other sources. It will be recalculated periodically through the 10-year window the

agreement covers. Not every school will chip in the full amount. Those that will are hurrying to find ways to replace what they'll pay out to athletes. They worry it could impact their overall sports programs, especially the "non-revenue" sports that play an outsized role in populating U.S. Olympic rosters. "We are thrilled by Judge Wilken's decision to give preliminary approval to the landmark settlement that will help bring stability and sustainability to college athletics while delivering increased benefits to student-athletes for years to come," NCAA President Charlie Baker said. "Today's progress is a significant step in writing the next chapter for the future of college sports." In addition to creating a payment system, the settlement sets up a framework to regulate future NIL deals and replaces scholarship caps with "roster limits," which will grow to 105 for football, the biggest sport at most major universities, and also the sport that brings in the most money while incurring the most expense. □

# Hurricane Milton forces NFL, NHL and other sporting events to adjust game plans

By The Associated Press  
The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are planning to relocate to the New Orleans area to prepare for Sunday's game against the Saints with Hurricane Milton expected to make landfall along Florida's west coast. The Bucs intend to travel Tuesday and spend the rest of the week out of state instead of practicing as usual at the team's training facility in Tampa. Milton strengthened into a Category 5 hurricane over the Gulf of Mexico on Monday and could make landfall in the Tampa Bay area Wednesday. The NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning canceled Monday night's scheduled pre-

season finale against the Nashville Predators. The game initially was rescheduled from Sept. 27 due to Hurricane Helene, which caused extensive damage



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield (6) runs way from Atlanta Falcons cornerback Antonio Hamilton Sr. (33) during the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

in the region two weeks ago. The Lightning open the regular season at Carolina on Friday. There was no immediate word on whether the team would evacuate to Raleigh, North Carolina, ahead of the storm. The NBA's Orlando Magic are on the road this week, playing at New Orleans on Monday night and at San Antonio on Wednesday. College sports are being impacted, too, with UCF in Orlando announcing all home athletics events on Wednesday and Thursday have been canceled. That includes Wednesday's volleyball match against Colorado, Thursday's women's soccer match against Arizona and the first day of

the men's tennis ITA Southeast Regionals on Thursday. The school said Saturday's Big 12 home football game vs. Cincinnati is still scheduled for a 3:30 p.m. ET kickoff. Coach Gus Malzahn said the Knights plan to practice Wednesday morning before the storm's effects are expected to arrive in the Orlando area. "We're trying to stay in our routine as best we can," Malzahn said. "We'll adjust with it. We'll have a plan no matter what happens. We've been talking through that. I think the main thing planning-wise is making sure our players are taken care of and all the people in our program." □